

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) A data input apparatus, characterized by including:

a first operating means for directly inputting at least either of numerical data and character data;

a second operating means for executing an operation except a direct input of numerical data and character data;

an inducing means for blinking on and off an induction mark which is used to induce a user's gaze onto the first operating means when a data input is started by the first operating means;

a displaying means for displaying data which is inputted by the first operating means; and
a cursor displaying means for displaying a blinking cursor in the displaying means,

the inducing means synchronizing a blink of the blinking cursor and a blink of the induction mark.

22. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the induction mark is disposed so that the distance between the induction mark which is blinked on and off by the inducing means and the first operating means is shorter than the distance between the blinking cursor which is displayed by the cursor displaying means and the first operating means.

23. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means blinks on and off, in the displaying means, an induction mark for inducing a user's gaze onto the first operating means.

24. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the induction mark which is blinked on and off by the inducing means is disposed closer to the first operating means than the middle of the displaying means.

25. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the induction mark includes a figure which represents the shape of the first operating means.

26. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the induction mark includes a figure which represents the direction where the first operating means is located.
27. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means stops blinking on and off an induction mark for inducing a user's gaze onto the first operating means when an operation of the first operating means is started.
28. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means stops blinking on and off the induction mark when at least either of numerical data and character data is displayed by the displaying means.
29. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 27, characterized in that the inducing means turns on the light of the induction mark after stopping blinking on and off the induction mark.
30. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means turns off the light of the induction mark for inducing a user's gaze onto the first operating means when an operation of the first operating means is completed.
31. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means displays the induction mark synchronously when the blinking cursor is displayed and does not display the induction mark synchronously when the blinking cursor is not displayed.
32. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means does not display the induction mark synchronously when the blinking cursor is displayed and displays the induction mark synchronously when the blinking cursor is not displayed.

33. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that the inducing means includes an induction lamp near the first operating means and blinks on and off the induction lamp as an induction mark for inducing a user's gaze onto the first operating means.

34. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 33, characterized in that the induction lamp illuminates the operation surface of the first operating means when the induction lamp is lit.

35. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 33, characterized in that the inducing means blinks on and off the induction lamp by allowing electric power which is supplied to the induction lamp to be intermittent.

36. (New) A data input program, characterized by allowing a computer to function as:

- a first operating means for directly inputting at least either of numerical data and character data;

- a second operating means for executing an operation except a direct input of numerical data and character data;

- an inducing means for blinking on and off an induction mark which is used to induce a user's gaze onto the first operating means when a data input is started by the first operating means;

- a displaying means for displaying data which is inputted by the first operating means; and

- a cursor displaying means for displaying a blinking cursor in the displaying means,

- the inducing means synchronizing a blink of the blinking cursor and a blink of the induction mark.

37. (New) A computer-readable recording medium in which a data input program is recorded, characterized in that the data input program allows a computer to function as:

- a first operating means for directly inputting at least either of numerical data and character data;

- a second operating means for executing an operation except a direct input of numerical data and character data;

an inducing means for blinking on and off an induction mark which is used to induce a user's gaze onto the first operating means when a data input is started by the first operating means;

a displaying means for displaying data which is inputted by the first operating means; and
a cursor displaying means for displaying a blinking cursor in the displaying means,

the inducing means synchronizing a blink of the blinking cursor and a blink of the induction mark.

38. (New) A data input method, characterized by including:

an inducing step of an inducing means blinking on and off an induction mark which is used to induce a user's gaze onto a first operating means for directly inputting at least either of numerical data and character data when a data input is started by the first operating means;

a first operating step of the first operating means directly inputting at least either of numerical data and character data;

a displaying step of a displaying means displaying data which is inputted in the first operating step;

a cursor displaying step of a cursor displaying means displaying a blinking cursor on a display screen which is displayed in the displaying step; and

a blink synchronizing step of the inducing means synchronizing a blink of the blinking cursor and a blink of the induction mark.

39. (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 28, characterized in that the inducing means turns on the light of the induction mark after stopping blinking on and off the induction mark.